THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) A few theft cases of antiquities have been reported from the protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India. A list of such objects, as per available information, is given in the Annexure (*see* Appendix 185 Annexure No. 17)

(b) Measures have been taken to check the theft of antiquities from the protected monuments/sites by careful vigilance at the monuments as well as strict enforcement of the Antiquities and the monuments as well as strict enforcement of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. Armed Guards have been deployed at selected monuments and museums under the Archaeological Survey of India. Steps have also been indentified in concert with the enforcing agencies like the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Customs authorities and the State Governments concerned to check the thefts of antiquities and their smuggling by intensifying vigilance and checks at Customs exit points.

Reforms in the Higher Education System

706.DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether higher education in the country is cheaper than the primary education in Private Schools; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to introduce reforms in the higher education system as demanded by the University teachers?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Fee charged for primary classes by some Private Schools is generally higher than that in Governemnt/ Government aided colleges.

(b) The Government and UGC have taken several measures to introduce reforms in higher education. Some of the major steps taken in this direction are as follows:—

- Revision of pay scales of colleges and university teachers w.e.f. 1.1.1996. Opportunities provided for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test Introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.
- Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college teachers.
- 27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 Disciplines in under-graduate and post-graduate courses.
- Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement of teaching and research under Special Assistance Programme.
- Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the University system.
- Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected colleges.
- Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observances of at least 18 teaching days by universities/ colleges.
- Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified. by UGC.

Central University Status to Allahabad University

707.SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESORUCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2702, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th July, 1998 and state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in declaring Allahabad University as a Central University; and

(b) the steps taken so far in this regard by the Central Governemnt?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The issue of conversion of Allahabad University was under consideration of Government. While taking up this issue, the Govt. had to consider similar demands of other Universities. A decision was

accordingly taken to take up cases of existing State Universities, which were older than 100 years, for conversion into Central Universities provided that State Governments also met a part of the expenditure. In the case of Allahabad University, there was no firm commitment from the State Govt. on the stipulated terms at that time. However, the entire policy is under review and once a final decision is taken, the case of Allahabad University will be taken up in the light of that policy decision.

Nomination of Members of National Commission for Women

708.DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to be state:

(a) the criteria adopted by Government for nominating Members to the National Commission for Women;

(b) whether the Commission is not fully autonomous to choose the staff; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) In accordance with the Section 2(b) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, five Members of the National Commission for Women are nominated by Central Government from amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing who have had experience in law or legislation, trade unionism, management of an industry or organisation committed to increasing the employment potential of women, women's Voluntary Organisations (including women activists), administration, economic development, health, education or social welfare. It is also provided that at least one member each shall be from amongst persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the Section 5 (1) of the national Commission for Women Act,. 1990, the Central Government provides the Commission with such officers and employees as are necessary for the efficient performance of the functions of the commission under the Act. Further in accordance with Sub Rule (3) of Rule 4 of the National Commission for Women (Salaries, Allowances and Other Terms and Conditions of Group 'C' and 'D' Employees) Rules, 1997, notified on 9.1.87 under Sub Section (1) read with Clause (1) of Sub-section (2) of Section 17 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, the Commission is competent to make appointments to the Group 'C' and 'D' posts on transfer and deputation basis.

Adoption of New Sports and Youth Polices

709. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to adopt new sports and youth Policies;

(b) if so, by when the new policies are likely to be adopted; and

(c) the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to making them more need based, the existing Sports and Youth Policies have been reviewed. After widespread consultations, draft New Sports and Youth Policies have been formulated. There draft policies were circulated to all concerned agencies inviting their comments and have also been widely discussed and debated in various forums, including the Conference of Ministers for Youth Affairs and Sports of States/Union Territories. The comments and suggestions received have been suitably incorporated, wherever considered necessary. Action has been initiated for obtaining the approval of the Government to the Draft New Policies.

(c) The salient features of the New Sports Policy and Youth Policy are as under :

New Sports Policy

1. Broad-basing of Sports;
2. Creation of Sports Infrastructure;
3. Mobilisation of mass media in introducing a sports culture in the country;
4. Achievig excellence at the National and International levels;
5. Scientific back-up to Sports persons;